



Bulletin

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VOL. 2003 NO. 2 ♦ Food Ordering & Customer Service (FOCUS) Team Update

May Surveys Released for Group A Products

The anxiously awaited surveys have been released and ready for input. Please keep in mind that the priority series listing is needed for those that may be using EDI; it is not necessary for those that are using ECOS. Notification via email was sent on Thursday May 01, 2003. Entitlement figures were emailed on Monday, May 05, 2003. The following Excel spreadsheets were previously emailed to each state agency:

1. Fruit and Vegetable, Meat, and Poultry listing of survey information
2. Ordering instructions
3. Dollar Fair Share Allocations
4. Priority Series for ordering

General Information:

- Meat and Poultry Surveys

We have entered only one survey for each product. We have allocated dollars by USDA's funding period. Please pay close attention to the funding restrictions by delivery period on the dollar fair shares spreadsheet.

We will not release additional surveys for the products on these surveys, unless additional delivery periods become available. If states desire to add meat and poultry orders throughout the year, they can do so on these surveys.

It is recommended that states inform processors of any changes in processor or when adding new orders so that processors can update schedules. States should negotiate delivery schedules with processors. We recommend that this be done in writing for future reference.

Please continue to order chilled hams for further processing or for immediate use; this is a better quality product when it is delivered in a chilled state versus frozen.

- Fruit and Vegetable Surveys

Fruit and Vegetables will have another set of surveys to be released late August for apple products, peaches, green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, fresh fruits, potatoes, and dry canned and bulk beans.

Capped dollars are included in the total entitlement, not in addition to the total entitlement dollars allocated. States not ordering their entire capped dollars may use their remaining funds to order other non-capped items. If capped items will not be used, please notify us so that the capped product can be re-allocated.

States should indicate via email any desire for product that may exceed their allocated dollar amounts. Even if dollars are not available at the time orders are due, decreases in cost may free dollars at a later time.

The attached excel spreadsheet on fair shares combines Schools and CACF Group A entitlement, deducts DOD Fresh allocated dollars, and takes into account the anticipated carryover from SY 2003. The balance is available to use for AMS Group A purchases.

Miscellaneous amounts on the dollar chart are funds that AMS has not yet allocated to a specific product but eventually will desire orders against those amounts. Please take this miscellaneous amount into consideration when placing your orders.

Also, please note the following corrections to the email notification sent out on Thursday evening, 1 May 03:

- For Round **Survey 01-F-30**, Apples Slices (A345) and Applesauce (A350) was added.
- For Round **Survey 01-F-36**, Corn Lqd 10 (A110) was added.
- For Round **Survey 01-F-39**, Corn Frz (A130) and Corn Cobb (A129) was added.
- Please do not order Apple Slices (A345), Applesauce (A350), Corn (A110) or Corn Cobb (A129), Corn Frz (A130) before delivery period 9/30/03.
- Also, when ordering canned pears, green beans, and tomato products, these could be prior year pack dates if orders are for first three delivery periods.

One last comment, we have received inquiries regarding tuna and canned meats. These surveys are handled by Mary Mills and are expected to be released this fall (late September or early October).

If you did not receive the emailed items, please contact any one on the FOCUS team. Also, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.